This is our VVRC REPEATER print version. An expanded online version is available by free subscription. Go to w6vvr.net

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **April 2015**

Club Communications During March, 2015

Club Repeater Fixed

Date: Mar 23, 2015 6:43 AM

Skipp got the repeater fixed yesterday. He didn't need to replace the repeater, it had a connection that had become a little corroded that he cleaned up and she's working fine now.

He also got the 6 meter repeater 51.980 w/114.8 buzz working too.

Still has some minor audio issues but it's back on line none the less.He still has to do some work on the 220 machine I think.

But he got it done!So this week the net will be on our club repeater.Thanks for all your help Skipp! We appreciate it!

Frank, KJ6RWQ

Club Repeater and Swap Meet

Date: Mar 18, 2015 6:06 AM

Hello Club!

On to the proposed swap meet. I checked with Covenant Community Church on Alamo about the parking lot.

The date is available and it looks like we'll get approved for it, however we will need some sort of insurance binder or rider or whatever to make sure the Church is covered if someone gets hurt. I put out a call to an insurance agency, but perhaps our very own KD6WKY. Jerry can assist with this?

Jerry can you look into a one day policy for the event for us?

Another matter we have to discuss is the bathroom situation. The Church isn't going to want us all going in and out of the sanctuary to use the facilities so a port-a-potty will be needed. Not sure of the cost of that yet, I sent a request to a local provider.

FrankKJ6RWQ

FYI Club. Here is some info on the NHRC Hamfest on May 17th!

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 5:56 PM
Subject: Hamfest flyers

Frank. We finally hammered out all the details for the NHRC Hamfest.The date is may 17th 7am till noon. same place as last year.

We are doing two separate raffles. First raffle is an Alinco dj27 220mhz ht and dualband magmount.

Tickets for these prizes a a buck a pop or 6 for five bucks. The grand prize for the first time in the area I know of is an Icom IC718 hf radio. Tickets for this one

Continued on Page 2------->

---------->

IN THIS ISSUE

Club Communications----------1 to 3
HR-130 ----------3
HR-1301----------3
Marconi & the Electra ----------4
Experience with radio dealer----------5&6
Application and Misc----------6

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS
President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KJ6JNX
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS
Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

are five bucks a copy.

We also have numerous other thing to raffle the list is too long.

Any chance of having you guys announce the swap on your weekly nets. We will happily do the same for your swap.

We also planned a picnic/foxhunt on saturday july 25th. It will be held in Rio Linda. Trying to set up a 5 dollar entrance fee per person for the t-hunt. Winner take all. I will have the transmitter later this weekend. If your club would like to use it i will loan it to yall.

We also planned a picnic/foxhunt on saturday july 25th. It will be held in Rio Linda. Trying to set up a 5 dollar entrance fee per person for the t-hunt. Winner take all. I will have the transmitter later this weekend. If your club would like to use it I will loan it to yall.

Hope to see ya at both events.

Board member NHRC.

Chris KJ6 lazy zombie ravioli

Celebrating 58 Years of Amateur Radio
K6IS
* 1957 - 2015 *
NORTH HILLS RADIO CLUB's
ANNUAL
SACRAMENTO HAMFEST
The Largest and Oldest in the Valley!
SUNDAY MAY 17TH 7AM - NOON
NATOMAS HIGH SCHOOL
Directions: I-80 Exit Truxel South - Left on San Juan
then Left onto Fong Ranch Road - SWAP on the left.
Drawings all day, Main Prize @ 12PM
#1.....Icom IC718 HF Radio
#2.....Alinco DJ27 HT Radio
#3.....MFJ Magmount Antenna
All Items provided by GigaParts
Many Seller Tables
Donuts, Hot dogs and Drinks
FREE Parking for buyers - Fun for the Family
$25 for 2 parking spaces for Sellers
Talk-In on 145.190 / 224.400 both - pl 162.2
K6IS.ORG
Be sure to monitor 145.190 for Announcements

Skipp,

What method would you like to contact you with any of the repeaters issues?

What is the most convenient for you?

On Mar 20, 2015, at 14:13, skipp <skipp025@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Guys,

Just a quick follow up about the Mt Vaca Repeater...

Half the time I don't know there's a problem unless one of you report it to me (Email, phone or even over the air). I've just become aware of the 5.47 audio problem this week and the fix is on the way. I have a nice brand new Kenwood Repeater ready to put in place, it's that simple. I would have already replaced the repeater but I was out of town for a few days.

Yes I know the Y/V DR-1X is a smoking deal (Icom was doing the same deal with the D-star systems) as they want to get a footprint on C4 mode in the USA. I know it is not a super mega bullet proof unit. And my cool-aid is Balvenie Port wood 21yr. by the way & yes I share it. They are behind the curve from D-star, and since there are more D-star active repeaters in the area I suggested going that route as an option since it supported full auto mode switching. Supplementing the existing repeater with a linked C4FM unit would be even better. I am still willing to pay the higher cost of the unit later this year to give the the opportunity to play with that mode. Looking at repeaterbook.com site for C4FM / D-star, the Skipp's tower gives a wider coverage area from Sacramento to the bay area than any of the other existing repeaters using C4FM. MDARC has D-Star on Diablo and has good coverage where it is at for that Digital mode.

So Team VVRC, We really have plan out what

---->

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

we really want to do going forward and we have to plan it for a minimum of a 10 year window. D-star / C4FM (Yaesu) are the main that are out of the box solutions that are available right of the shelf for all amateurs to use and most techies Sure there is the converted commercial digital systems out there, but that is for those who want to spend the time hacking it to work on Amateur bands and is more specialized

It will help Skipp do what he wants do with the Amateur side of the gear he runs for us, if we have a viable plan that will work for all.

Now, so far I have only seen comments from Skipp, Jerry Olive, Marcus, and our fearless Leader Frank I do hope that others are pondering and or giving feedback.

Skipp, Yes I would like to know about the extra features that are available for the repeaters now, and what what ideas for future expansion that you would like to do.

HR-1301

A bill to give relief from Home Owners Associations harsh Rules

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) More than 700,000 radio amateurs in the United States are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in the amateur radio service.

(2) Amateur radio, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronics technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.

(3) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of amateur radio stations established at the residences of licensees. Such stations have been shown to be frequently and increasingly precluded by unreasonable private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.

(4) Federal Communications Commission regulations have for three decades prohibited the application to amateur radio stations of State and local regulations that preclude or fail to reasonably accommodate amateur service communications, or that do not constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish a legitimate State or local purpose. Commission policy has been and is to permit erection of a station antenna structure at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur service communications.

(5) The Federal Communications Commission has sought guidance and direction from Congress with respect to the application of the Commission's limited preemption policy regarding amateur radio communications to private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.

SEC. 3. ACCOMMODATION OF AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall amend section 97.15(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, so that such section prohibits application to amateur service communications of any private land use restriction, including a restrictive covenant, that—

(1) precludes such communications;

(2) fails to reasonably accommodate such communications; or

(3) does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the private entity seeking to enforce such restriction.

MARCONI (1874 - 1937)

Born in Bologna Italy Apr. 25, 1874, the son of a wealthy Italian country gentleman and an Irish mother. Early education in Bologna and later in Florence. He then spent about ten years at a technical school in Leghorn where he studied physics under Vincenzo Rosa.

He soon became interested in electro-magnetic wave technique and was absorbed with the experiments of Maxwell, Hertz, Branly, Lodge, Righi and others.

During his stay in Leghorn he became acquainted with an elderly retired telegrapher who taught young Marconi the Morse code. This increased his interest in the possibility of using the Hertzian waves to signal over distances.

His success of course is history. Regretfully the Italian Goverrment gave him little encouragement so he went to England in 1896 where he received both assistance and encouragement.

A lonely man, his happiest hours were spent aboard ship where he devoted his time and interests to study and experiment.

Marchese Guglielmo Marconi was a modest man. He never made the claim that he invented wireless. He merely put the components together, in the proper place, in the correct manner and thereby gave the civilized world one of the most useful discoveries yet conceived by man .

We still salute Marconi as one of the greatest benefactors mankind has ever had.

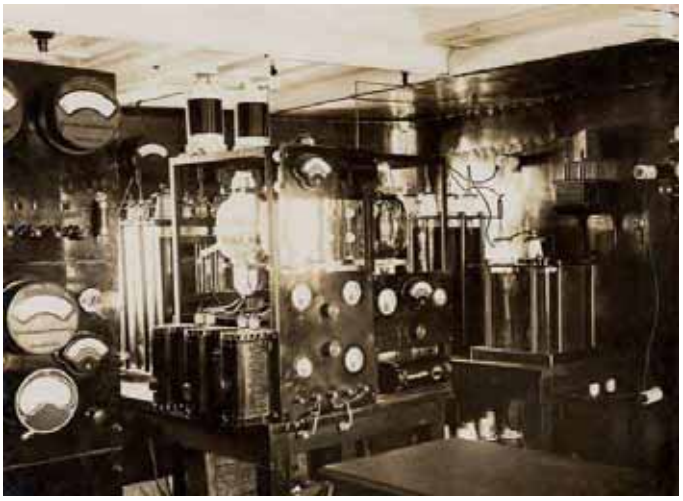
THE ELECTRA

The Yacht Electra was built for the Archduchess Marie Theresa of Austria who named her 'Rovenska' in May 1904. Length 220 Ft, beam 27-1/2', draft 16-1/2'.

At the outbreak of WW-I she was anchored in British waters to the Admiralty requisitioned her as enemy property. She was on patrol and mine sweeping duties during the war.

After the war she was sold on the open market to Marconi who bought her and named her the ELETTRA". His daughter born some ten year later was named after the yacht.

Marconi was very fond of her and enjoyed nothing more than experimenting in his 'floating laboratory'.



In picture above was his experimental transmitter on the Elettra.

The Elettra was sold in 1937 after Marconi's death to the Italian Government. The Germans requisitioned her in 1940 and she was torpedoed by a British sub in 1943 off the Dalmatian Coast. She was raised in 1962 she was returned to the Italian Govt but was a rusting hulk at San Rocco. A sad end for a glorious ship.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Frank Garay; KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

---------->

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

My Experience With a Radio Dealer

Date: Mar 16, 2015 9:22 PM

In the last year, I've been wanting to upgrade my QTH shack with a better HF radio over what I bought a few years back from a ham living in southern CA who told me at the time I talked to him as per his classified ad on the QTH.com website "about how much he hated to part with the FT-450 rig because he always had a good time using it", but now he had to sell it because in the height of the great recession, he was employed as a car salesman and his commissions were lackluster so to speak and he really needed the cash. I asked him at the time if I could split up the selling price for his FT-450 into two equal payments for a total of $650.00. He said yes and he also said yes to taking my business checks since I told him who the bank was. So two months later, I had my first HF rig and I still have it. With nothing more than a G5RV antenna at about 40 ft. height, together I've managed to make QSO's to Europe, South Africa, Canada, Australia, South America, into the Caribbean area, over to Russia and to Japan.

And with the rig, I've had great success with the JT65-HF and PSK31 digital modes with two of the furthest QSO's out to Indonesia and down to the South Pole aside from many other great spots around the globe. But still I wanted a slightly "more" radio rig and I kept trolling the radio dealer websites in search of one particular radio: An FT-950. Nowadays, the FT-950 is the new FTDX-1200 rig. But since I have some debt to clear away, I thought I could possibly find myself a reasonably priced FT-950 and I did at the R&L Electronics website. Over the past 6 years since getting my "ticket", I've made regular purchases of radio related gear from them after comparing prices between them and a few other dealers. For the most part, their sale prices were less than their competitors for the same product. And so I contacted them to see if I could split the selling price into two equal payments and they agreed. And so I mailed to them the first payment which by all rights, should have told them that I was interested in the radio and to not sell it to anyone but me. The first check was cashed and 30 days later, I mailed to them the second check. Now granted that nearly all radio dealers don't bother themselves with layaway for reasons unclear, but R&L agreed with me verbally in a telephone call to them twice: Once to inquire about the radio and again to have their employee tell me the owner would agree to the split payments. Since one of the owners was out-of-town, she had to contact him before committing herself and the store to what I was asking for: Two split payments spread out over 30 days. No big deal, right?

Nearly all of my radios were bought "as is & used" with only one of them bought new. And at R&L Electronics, I've managed to get some really good deals. OK, the second check arrived at R&L, but not knowing what day it arrived, they called me up and left me a message on my answering machine telling me that my second check had arrived, but gee, they had sold the FT-950!!! The first cashed check should have had held the radio until the second check arrived. But the girl who told me she pulled the radio from the website apparently wasn't the person who sold it. Now the FT-950 was a 2010 model and of the two remaining rigs on their website that I looked at, one was a 2007 year model and the other I couldn't tell because I couldn't read the radio's serial number due to a very poor photo taken of it. Someone around their store probably walked in with $995 in cash and rather than tell that person the radio was not for sale, it apparently was for sale and the deed was done. Not only did I write to them via snail mail a letter voicing my displeasure in how ungrateful they were by not honoring a deal made, but asked them if they would make me an offer on a FTDX-3000 since I did not want the 2007 model nor the other radio. And besides, the 2007 model had numerous scratches on its top cover where the speaker is located and the various knobs were well worn with a light coating of grunge. They offered just $50 off of the 2007 model (which I think was way overpriced for its age & appearance), but no apology was ever extended to me and nothing like "what can we do to make up for our failure to honor the deal made".

Nope, not a word has ever come from them to me in written form by either snail or email mode or verbally. And then to top things off, they cashed the second check rather than finding a way to make it right. Combine all of this with the fact that the ham who bought what was and by all rights should have been my radio since my first check made my claim to it, the ham returned the rig to the dealer's store "because he didn't really want it and was really wanting to buy a newer radio instead". And then R&L immediately placed the 2010 FT-950 rig back onto their website and then emailing me to ask me what were my plans? Well, I drafted up a letter and sent it to them via certified mail for which it was delivered to them today - March 16, 2015 and when I got home from work to check my email, an email from them said they were sending back to me the $995.00. And again, no apology. The certified mail sent letter reiterated my position about making me a deal on a FTDX-3000. But nothing except to expect to

Contined on page 6---------->

Continued from Page 5

see UPS on Tuesday

. Not only will I never ever buy another product from them in the immediate near and distant future, but anyone I see fit that might benefit from my experience in dealing with them, I will "tell it like it is" approach. My plan is to contact others that I know and give to them what I'm giving to this radio club's newsletter to warn others about my purchase experience in dealing with a place named R&L Electronics in Hamilton, OH. And what about the FTDX-3000? Oh, I'll get it later this year. I'll put money aside and buy it new from any dealer except R&L Electronics in Hamilton, OH!

The refund check arrived to day from R&L Electronics. No letter or note telling how sorery they were. Just the refund check.Even the XYL said that they really "dropped the ball" in dealing with me. I kinda expected nothing in the envelope but the check.They didn't apoligize before and not once after the radio was sold and then they cashed my 2nd check.

As far as I'm concerned; R&L Electronics is poorly managed and not worth dealing with.

Word of mouth travels fast.

7 3, Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX

At the Last Meeting

Well, during the last meeting , even though we had a good turnout there wasn't a quorum of officers so the meeting lapsed into a regular meeting.

Since I didn't recieve a President's Message and the Secretary was on the injured list resulting in no Minutes, I decided to just put a review of last month's club e-mails as a substitute.

One of the issues brought up was should we also use the newsletter for club members to sell unwanted radio items. There was a unanamous agreement to do so.

I can handle any amount of items since it is just as easy to add more pages to the newsletter to accomodate items including text and photos. Just e-mail your items to me at jerrybowen@earthlink.net. Do not use PDFs and & keep the pictures at about 3x4 & 200 pixels.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:

_____

City: _____Zip:

_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143